

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT O 00985 01 OF 02 212139Z

60

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W

----- 037084

O 212120Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9095

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PORT OF SPAIN 0985

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.) TD

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT BY THE SECRETARY TO TRINIDAD
AND TOBAGO

REF: STATE 93414

1. SUCH A VISIT TO TRINIDAD BY THE SECRETARY AS PROPOSED
IN REFTTEL WOULD BE HIGHLY POSITIVE AND APPROPRIATE
DEVELOPMENT, SUBJECT ONLY TO CAVEAT ON TIMING IN FOLLOWING
PARAGRAPH. SINCE VISIT WOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO INVITATION
PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS MADE TO THE SECRETARY IN
WASHINGTON IN FEBRUARY 1975, WER PRESUME GOVT OF TRINIDAD
AND TOBAGO (GOTT) WOULD WISH THE SECRETARY TO BE ITS
OFFICIAL GUEST WHILE HERE. SECRETARY'S VISIT
WOULD NOT ONLY BE AN APPROPRIATE RECOGNITION OF TRINIDAD
AND TOBAGO'S SOUND AND PRAGMATIC INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL
AND ECONOMIC POLICIES, BUT ALSO A TRIBUTE TO THIS
SOCIETY'S SOLIDLY BASED DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND
COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS. VISIT WOULD HIGHLIGHT
SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ROLE OF TRINIDAD
AND TOBAGO IN ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN, WILLIAMS'
PERSONAL PRESTIGE AS SUBJ-REGION'S ELDER STATESMAN, AND
THE MAJOR ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL TIES BETWEEN OUR TWO
NATIONS. IMPORTANTLY, IT COULD HAVE MAJOR IMPACT
ON DEVELOPING A CLOSER HABIT OF CONSULTATION AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT O 00985 01 OF 02 212139Z

COOPERATION BY PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS AT THIS TIME

WHEN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S PERCEPTIONS ON MANY REGIONAL ISSUES ARE SOMEWHAT PARALLEL TO OUR OWN.

2. THE TIMING OF THE VISIT IS CRUCIAL, HOWEVER, IN RELATION TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S NATIONAL ELECTIONS, WHICH MUST BE HELD PRIOR TO MID-SEPTEMBER. THE EXACT DATE OF ELECTIONS HAS NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED, BUT THE BEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY INDICATES THAT THEY WILL OCCUR IN MID-JUNE. THIS COULD DEVELOP INTO MOST UNFORTUNATE TIMING FOR THE SECRETARY TO VISIT IF HIS SCHEDULE FELL INTO THE LATTER PART OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE BALLOTING. THIS WOULD IMMEDIATELY CATAPULT THE ISSUE OF USG INTERFERENCE INTO PROMINENCE IN THE ELECTION, SINCE IT WOULD APPEAR WE WERE ACTING TO BOLSTER THE PRESTIGE OF THE INCUMBENT GOVERNMENT IN A PARTISAN MANNER. THIS WOULD ACTUALLY SERVE TO HURT WILLIAMS' GOVERNMENT, WE BELIEVE, AND THEREFORE DR. WILLIAMS WOULD PROBABLY BE MOST RELUCTANT TO RECEIVE A PROMINENT SUPERPOWER STATESMAN IMMEDIATELY BEFORE BALLOTING. THIS SITUATION IS MORE ACUTE HERE SINCE NATIONAL ELECTIONS ARE ONLY HELD EVERY FIVE YEARS AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO INTERVENING ELECTIONS TO DILUTE THE IMPACT OF THE FIVE-YEAR CYCLE.

3. ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WILL BE RETURNED TO POWER IN THE NEXT ELECTION (ALBEIT WITH SOMEWHAT REDUCED MAJORITY IN THE PARLIAMENT), AND A VISIT HERE SHORTLY AFTER THE ELECTION WOULD POSE NO PROBLEMS. IN FACT, IT WOULD OFFER AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ADDED RECOGNITION TO TRINIDAD'S NEW STATUS AS A REPUBLIC SINCE THE NEWLY-PASSED REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTION WILL BE PROMULGATED AT THE SAME TIME.

4. THIS CRITICAL FACTOR OF TIMING INDICATES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EMBASSY BEING AUTHORIZED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS PROSPECTIVE VISIT WITH THE HOST GOVERNMENT. THIS WOULD NOT ONLY SMOKE OUT WHETHER AN ACTUAL CONFLICT EXISTS, BUT MIGHT ALLOW GOVT TIME TO SPEED UP ITS ELECTION DATE PLANNING SLIGHTLY IF POSSIBLE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PORT O 00985 01 OF 02 212139Z

RICH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT O 00985 02 OF 02 212200Z

60

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W

----- 037346

O 212130Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9096

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PORT OF SPAIN 0985

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

5. AN ILLUSTRATIVE ROUGH SCENARIO FOR VISIT WITHIN TIME
FRAME IN REFTEL FOLLOWS. HOWEVER, DUE TO AIRPORT
DISTANCE FROM PORT OF SPAIN EMBASSY URGES SOMEWHAT
EARLIER DEPARTURE FROM RIO WHICH WOULD PERMIT ARRIVAL
TRINIDAD ABOUT 4:30 P.M. (OR NOT LATER THAN 5:00 P.M).
COURTESY CALLS COULD THEN BE EARLIER, WITH TIME TO
CATCH BREATH BEFORE DINNER. FOLLOWING SCENARIO IS
BASED ON THE PROJECTED 6:55 P.M. ARRIVAL.

JUNE 13.

6:55 P.M. ARRIVE PIARCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
MET BY FOREIGN MINISTER DR. CUTHBERT JOSEPH
AND CHIEF OF PROTOCOL RABINDRANATH PERMANAND
7:05 P.M. MOTORCADE DEPARTS FOR PORT OF SPAIN
7:40 P.M. ARRIVE AT TRINIDAD HILTON HOTEL (NOTE:
THE HILTON IS OWNED BY THE TRINIDAD GOVERNMENT
AND OFFICIAL GUESTS ARE HOUSED THERE. I
AM SURE AMBASSADOR WOULD ALSO WISH TO
MAKE EMBASSY RESIDENCE AVAILABLE, BUT THE
TOTAL FACILITIES AVAILABLE AT THE HILTON
FOR PARTY AND S/S AS WELL AS ITS CENTRAL
LOCATION PROBABLY MAKE IT MUCH MORE FELICITOUS
CHOICE ON THE WHOLE.)
8:05 P.M. SECRETARY AND MRS. KISSINGER, ACCOMPANIED BY
ASSISTANT SEC ROGERS AND AMBASSADOR DEPART
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT O 00985 02 OF 02 212200Z

HILTON.

8:10 P.M. COUTRESY CALL ON THE GOVERNOR GENERAL (PROBABLY
PRESIDENT BY MID-JUNE) SIR ELLIS CLARKE AND
LADY CLARKE AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE
8:25 P.M. DEPART GOVERNMENT HOUSE
8:30 P.M. CALL ON PRIME MINISTER DR. ERIC WILLIAMS
AT HIS RESIDENCE
8:45 P.M. DEPART TOGETHER WITH THE PRIME MINISTER FOR
RETURN TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE FOR STATE DINNER
8:50 P.M. STATE DINNER BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL (PRESIDENT??)
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE.
TOASTS TO BE EXCHANGED).

JUNE 14 (THE SECRETARY)

8:00 A.M. GREET ASSEMBLED STAFF OF AMERICAN EMBASSY
(AMERICANS AND TRINIDADIAN) IN BANQUET ROOM OF
HILTON HOTEL
8:10 A.M. DEPART HILTON
8:15 A.M. -- 9:30 A.M. SUBSTANTIVE MEETING WITH PRIME
MINISTER DR. ERIC WILLIAMS (AT THE PRIME
MINISTER'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE)
9:35 A.M. ARRIVE AT THE HILTON
9:45 A.M. --10-15 A.M. PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE HILTON FOR
LOCAL AND FOREIGN PRESS
10:25 A.M DEPART FOR PIACROC AIRPORT
10:55 A.M. ARRIVE AT AIRPORT
11:00 A.M. AIRCRAFT DEPARTS

JUNE 14 (MRS KISSINGER)

ILLUSTRATIVE PROGRAM JUNE 14 FOR MRS. KISSINGER WOULD START
WITH GREETING THE EMBASSY STAFF. AT THIS POINT
SEPARATE PROGRAM WOULD BEGIN. PROGRAM COULD INCLUDE
BRIEF STOP AT OFFICE OF UNITED STATES-TRINIDAD AND
TOBAGO BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE, FOLLOWED BY VISIT TO
SPECIAL BICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT MOUNTED AT EITHER TOWN
HALL OR CITYLIBRARY. AT THAT LOCATION PROMINENT MEMBERS
OF BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE PLUS SOME OTHER PROMINENT
WOMEN IN THE SOCIETY WOULD HAVE ASSEMBLED FOR COFFEE.
WE ANTICIPATE THAT THIS WOULD TAKE ALL OF AVAILABLE
TIME, BUT SHORT SIGHTSEEING DRIVE MIGHT ALSO BE
SQUEEZED IN. SHOPPING IN TRINIDAD, IN RELATION TO SOME
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PORT O 00985 02 OF 02 212200Z

OF OTHER STOPS ON ITINERARY, DOES NOT OFFER ANY SPECIAL
ATTRACTIONS.

6. SINCE REFTEL RECEIVED AFTER AMBASSADOR'S DEPARTURE
FOR U.S., DETAILS OF ILLUSTRATIVE PROGRAM ABOVE HAVE
NOT YET BEEN DISCUSSED WITH HIM , AND I SUGGEST THAT HE BE
CONSULTED IN WASHINGTON ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN
THIS MESSAGE. AMBASSADOR ALSO WILL BE ABLE TO ELABORATE

ON CAVEAT RE TIMING OF PROSPECTIVE VISIT.

RICH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PORTO00985
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760151-0632
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760439/aaaabgow.tel
Line Count: 225
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS, EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS, EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 93414
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE VISIT BY THE SECRETARY TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
TAGS: OVIP, TD, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006